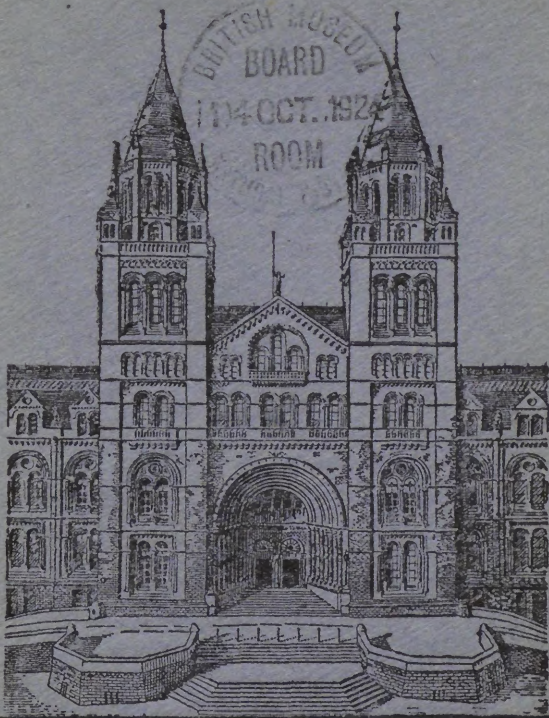


British Museum (Natural History)



BRITISH BUTTERFLIES

SERIES No. 5

5 Cards in Colour

Set E 22

One Shilling



c



d



a



b

BRITISH BUTTERFLIES

(a, b) Marbled White (*Melanargia gaulteria*)

Male and Female

(c, d) Grayling (*Salixys semole*)

Male and Female

Natural size

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

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a



c



b



d

BRITISH BUTTERFLIES

(a, b) Wall Brown (*Pararge aegeria*)

Male and Female

(c, d) Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegeria*)

Male and Female

Natural size

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a



b



c



d

BRITISH BUTTERFLIES

(a, b) Ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperanthus*) (c, d) Meadow Brown (*Epinephele jurtina*)
Male and Female Natural size

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a



b



c



d



e



f

BRITISH BUTTERFLIES

(a, b) Gatekeeper (*Epinephele tithonus*) Male and Female

(c, d) Large Heath (*Coenonympha tiphon*) Male and Female

(e, f) Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*) Male and Female

Natural size

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a



b



c



d

BRITISH BUTTERFLIES

(a, b) Small Mountain Ringlet (*Erebia epiphron*) (c, d) Scotch Argus (*Erebia aethiops*)

Male and Female Natural size

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BRITISH BUTTERFLIES.

Series No. 5.

The species illustrated in this set belong entirely to the Meadow Brown Family (*Satyridae*) and include all the British species. They are mostly rather small brownish butterflies, chiefly to be found in meadows, moors and grasslands, and can be recognised by the numerous eyespots on the wings. A better character for their recognition is furnished by the swollen condition of the basal portion of the large vein near the front edge of the forewing.

Before enumerating the *Satyridae*, a species belonging to the *Danaidae*, a family usually placed between the *Nymphalidae* and the *Satyridae*, should be mentioned. This species is:

30. Milkweed Butterfly (*Danaïs archippus*). Card No. E 140.

The complete list of the British *Satyridae* is as follows:—

SATYRS OR MEADOW BROWNS (*Satyridae*).

					Card No.
31.	Marbled White (<i>Melanargia galatea</i>)	...	...	...	E 126
32.	Grayling (<i>Satyrus semele</i>)	...	...	...	E 126
33.	Wall Brown (<i>Pararge megera</i>)	...	...	...	E 127
34.	Speckled Wood (<i>Pararge aegeria</i>)	...	...	...	E 127
35.	Ringlet (<i>Aphantopus hyperanthus</i>)	...	...	...	E 128
36.	Meadow Brown (<i>Epinephele jurtina</i>)	...	...	...	E 128
37.	Gatekeeper (<i>Epinephele tilhonus</i>)	...	...	...	E 129
38.	Large Heath (<i>Coenonympha tiphon</i>)	...	...	...	E 129
39.	Small Heath (<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>)	...	...	...	E 129
40.	Small Mountain Ringlet (<i>Erebia epiphron</i>)	...	...	...	E 130
41.	Scotch Argus (<i>Erebia aethiops</i>)	...	...	...	E 130

E 126 (a) and (b) MARBLED WHITE (*Melanargia galatea*).

In coloration this species is quite apart from the other members of the family, and may well be mistaken for a "White." If the base of the forewing be examined, however, the large swollen vein characteristic of all members of the family should be discerned without much difficulty. Wherever this butterfly is met with, it is usually abundant; but it is somewhat local, occurring in colonies, and has a marked preference for the grassy, rougher slopes of chalk downs. It is found as far north as

Yorkshire, but is particularly plentiful in the southwest. The caterpillar feeds on various kinds of grasses, as do those of the majority of the *Satyridae*. It is a smooth, pale-coloured, striped creature, free of spines, and having the last segment of the body forked. This last character is common to all the caterpillars of this family, and if taken in conjunction with the grass-feeding habit and the small head, should serve as an adequate recognition mark. The stout, compact chrysalis is found near the surface of the soil, amongst leaves, moss, etc., not suspended by the tail, nor contained in a cocoon, nor beneath the soil.

E 126 (c) and (d) GRAYLING (*Satyrus semele*).

On account of its habit of sitting about on rocks and stony places the older authors called this species the "Rock Underwing." Its underside is peculiarly suitable in its coloration for rendering it invisible in such situations, consisting of brindled greys and browns arranged in angular patterns. To some extent the general tone of these markings varies in different parts of the country according to the general colour of the soil upon which it settles. It closes the wings tight as soon as it pitches on the ground, and leans over to one side, generally in the direction of the sun. It is a late summer butterfly and is to be found almost throughout the British Isles. The caterpillars hatch in August, and hibernate whilst still quite small. It pupates just below the surface of the soil, being one of the few butterflies to behave in this manner.

E 127 (a) and (b) WALL BROWN (*Pararge megera*).

Although belonging to the same genus as the Speckled Wood, this butterfly prefers quite different surroundings, and should be sought in sunnier, more exposed situations. It seemed a few years ago to be disappearing rapidly from many of the counties in which formerly it was abundant, but appears since to have taken a new lease of life, and to be much more commonly met with. It is by no means rare where it occurs, but its distribution is somewhat irregular. Normally two broods occur each season, sometimes followed by a third, but there appears to be little if any seasonal variation. The life history is very similar to that of the last species.

E 127 (c) and (d) SPECKLED WOOD (*Pararge aegeria*).

Some two hundred years ago Peliver, part of whose collection is still contained in the Natural History Museum, published a figure of this butterfly, calling it the "Enfield Eye." Its present trivial name is a decided improvement, for of all our British *Satyridae* this is the species most closely associated with woodland glades. The typical form of the species does not occur in the British Isles, but only the subspecies or race known as *egerides*. In some years as many as three or four broods of the Speckled Wood have been recorded. Two is probably more normal, the number varying according to the season. The caterpillar feeds upon various grasses, and the chrysalis, like those of the *Nymphalids*, is suspended by the tail, but near the surface of the ground.

E. 128 (a) and (b) RINGLET (*Aphantopus hyperanthus*).

There is no possibility of confusing this species with any other of the *Satyridae*. Its sombre colour, relieved only by a few plain eyespots, better developed below than above, serves at once to identify it. It is

to be met with throughout the greater part of England and Wales, is plentiful in the southern counties of Scotland and extends even as far north as Aberdeen. In the south and west of Ireland it is particularly abundant. It should be looked for in damp situations in wooded country, damp meadows, etc., for its larvae feed principally upon certain grasses found commonly growing in such places. The butterflies are to be met with during July and August, the winter being passed in the caterpillar stage. Variation is not great, consisting principally in modifications of size and shape of the eye-spots. These are occasionally "blind," such specimens being known as variety *caeca*.

E 128 (c) and (d) MEADOW BROWN (*Epinephele jurtina*).

Next to the Small White the Meadow Brown probably ranks as our commonest species. It is to be met with abundantly in meadows and open grassy country almost throughout the British Isles. The sexes differ markedly; the large dark area about the middle of the forewing of the male being in reality a sex-mark composed of modified (androconial) scales, sometimes spoken of as the "brand." Only one brood normally occurs each season, but there is sometimes a partial emergence of a second brood in the autumn. A good deal of local variation is to be found even within the British Isles, and would well repay study. For example there appears to exist, from the Scilly Isles to Sutherlandshire, along the Atlantic littoral, a well-marked, brightly-coloured large race quite distinct from the more eastern races.

E 129 (a) and (b) GATEKEEPER (*Epinephele tithonus*).

This species is almost as well known under the name of "Small Meadow Brown," a name which in many ways is better than that given above; for the butterfly, both in general coloration, in manner of flight and in the choice of haunts, is very suggestive of a Meadow Brown. It is smaller than that species, however, and much more brightly coloured than the Meadow Brown, although the females of that species occasionally approach it fairly closely. Males can be recognised at once by the very conspicuous patch of androconial scales (the brand) which occupies a large part of the central area of the forewing. Although abundant in the southern counties and in the south of Ireland this species does not extend very far north at all plentifully. July and August are the months in which the butterflies are to be found. They seem especially attached to hedges, grassy-banks and are particularly fond of settling on brambles.

E 129 (c) and (d) LARGE HEATH (*Coenonympha tiphon*).

This is a northern insect. In this country it is confined to the "mosses" of the north of England, extending barely to Derbyshire. In Scotland it is fairly generally distributed in similar situations, and in Ireland it is widely spread on the bogs and mountains. It is also said to have occurred in North Wales. Abroad its range extends right across north Europe, north and north-central Asia, and North America. It is peculiarly susceptible to local variation throughout its range, as may be demonstrated even within the limits of its distribution in these islands. The greenish caterpillar is striped with bluish-green and also yellowish-green and is said to feed upon the Beaked Rush. Probably it feeds upon a variety of grasses. The butterfly is on the wing in June and July.

E 129 (e) and (f) SMALL HEATH (*Coenonympha pamphilus*).

This little species, the smallest of our native *Satyridae*, is also one of the commonest, and certainly the most widespread. It occurs throughout the British Isles, even to the Outer Hebrides, and is to be found in almost any grassy situation in the country up to an elevation of 2,000 feet. The caterpillars feed upon grasses. Seasonal variation is not uncommon amongst the Satyrid butterflies, and the Small Heath exhibits it to a marked extent. Spring and early summer specimens have a decidedly dark grey-green underside, but as the summer advances these give way to specimens with much paler undersides. The differences perhaps are more marked in south European specimens, but exceptionally warm summers sometimes produce, even in this country, butterflies in which the underside of the hindwing is a comparatively uniform pale yellowish-grey. Considerable variation also occurs in the number of the eyespots. In May the first butterflies usually make their appearance, and from these a second brood appears to result in August and September. Between these times, however, fresh specimens are frequently met with which are probably the result of delayed emergence. Consequently the broods become somewhat intermingled at times and it is not always possible to attribute late summer specimens to any particular brood.

E 130 (a) and (b) SMALL MOUNTAIN RINGLET (*Erebia epiphron*).

As suggested by its name, this little butterfly is only to be found on high ground, seldom below 1,500 feet in elevation. In England it is only to be met with in the Lake District, but in Scotland it is much more widely distributed. It is also recorded from Ireland. In its larval state it is a grass feeder like all other Satyrid larvae, but seems to show a decided preference for Mat Grass. In these islands we have only two species belonging to the genus *Erebia*, this one and the next, but abroad the species are very numerous. All are inhabitants of alpine regions, the genus being one of the most characteristic mountain forms amongst the butterflies.

E 130 (c) and (d) SCOTCH ARGUS (*Erebia aethiops*).

In its distribution within the British Isles this species agrees very closely with the last, except that it is not known to occur in Ireland. Similarly it is a mountain species, and was first discovered in the Isle of Arran. Its haunt, almost without exception, is the margin of a plantation where the different species of *Poa* grass grow abundantly, and also so situated as to receive the first rays of the rising sun. The insect is truly sun-loving and disappears at once whenever the sun is obscured. It is on the wing in July and August.

One other species of this genus (*Erebia ligea*) has been thought to occur in Scotland, and has even been called the Arran Brown. Although it has never been met with since first recorded in 1804, there are entomologists who still believe that not improbably the species actually exists in the highlands, and may yet be found again.